

FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

1000 FED TH FN 3-31		
ELLE DAISY GAŞKIN, R.O. OF ALABAM A)	
PLAINTIFF,)	
VS.)) CIVIL.	CV-05-HS-0270-S
MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT,)	
DEFENDANT.)	

Introduction

1. This is an action brought by the Plaintiff for actual and statutory damages, attorneys' fees, and costs for Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA"). Plaintiff also seeks compensatory and punitive damages for the Defendant's violations of Alabama State Law set forth herein.

Jurisdiction

2. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331; §1332 and §1367. Venue is proper in that the Defendant transacted business here, and the Plaintiff resides here.

Factual Allegations

- 3. The Plaintiff, Daisy Gaskin, is over the age of twenty-one (21), is a citizen of the State of Alabama, and resides in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama.
- 4. The Defendant, Midland Credit Management, a corporation, whose correct corporate status is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, was, in all respects and at all times relevant herein, doing business in the State of Alabama.
- 5. The Defendant is engaged in the business of collecting consumer debts from consumers residing in Jefferson County, Alabama and is a "debt collector," as defined by the FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 6. The Defendant called and/or communicated with the Plaintiff beginning on or about February 1, 2004, and continuing through this date.

COUNT ONE FAIR DEBT COLLECTIONS PRACTICES ACT

- 7. The Plaintiff adopts the averments and allegations of paragraphs 1 through 6 hereinbefore as if fully set forth herein.
- 8. The Defendant has engaged in collection activities and practices in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter referred to as "FDCPA") with respect to the Plaintiff's alleged consumer debt.
- 9. The Defendant violated §1692c(a)(1) by contacting the Plaintiff at a time or place Defendant knew or should have known was inconvenient to the Plaintiff.
- 10. The Defendant violated §1692d by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in the following ways:
 - (A) By using language the natural consequence of which is to abuse the hearer in violation of §1692d(2).
 - (B) By repeatedly telephoning the Plaintiff with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass the Plaintiff in an effort to coerce her into paying a debt in violation of §1692d(5).
 - (C) By failing to make meaningful disclosure of the caller's identity in violation of §1692d(6).
- 11. The Defendant used false representations and/or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect a debt or obtain information concerning the Plaintiff in violation of §1692e(10).
- 12. The Defendant made false representations regarding the character, amount, or legal status of the debt in violation §1692e(2)(A).
- 13. The Defendant threatened to take action that could not legally be taken or which they did not intend to take in violation of §1692e(5).
- 14. The Defendant violated §1692f by using unfair and/or unconscionable means to attempt to collect a debt.
- 15. The Defendant violated §1692f(1) by collecting or attempting to collect an amount which was not authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.
- 16. As a proximate result of the Defendant's actions, the Plaintiff was caused to suffer actual damages for worry, humiliation, fear, loss of sleep, anxiety, nervousness, physical sickness, physical pain and mental anguish.
- 17. The Defendants engaged in acts and practices in violation of the FDCPA while conducting collection activity with respect to the alleged debts of the Plaintiff by failing to send the consumer

an initial written notice containing:

- (A) the amount of the debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g(a)(1);
- (B) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g(a)(2);
- (C) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g(a)(3);
- (D) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the 30-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g(a)(4);
- (E) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the 30-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g(a)(5).

COUNT TWO INVASION OF THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY

- 18. The Plaintiff adopts the averments and allegations of paragraphs 1 through 16 hereinbefore as if fully set forth herein.
- 19. The Defendant undertook **and or directed** a series of communications to the home of the Plaintiff constituting an invasion of privacy, as set out and described in the common law of the State of Alabama. Said communications were systematic and continuous in number and made in disregard for Plaintiff's right to privacy after repeated requests that the Defendant no longer contact her. Said communications were made to force, coerce, harass, embarrass and/or humiliate the Plaintiff into paying a debt.
- 20. Said invasions were intentional, willful, and malicious, and violated the Plaintiff's privacy. The Plaintiff avers that the communications were made by various individuals who were the employees of and acting on behalf of the named Defendant.
- 21. Said communications constitute an unwarranted, and/or the wrongful intrusion into Plaintiff's private activities, as well as intentional intrusion into the Plaintiff's solitude and seclusion.
- As a proximate consequence of said invasion of the right of privacy, the Defendant has caused the Plaintiff to suffer worry, fright, humiliation, loss of sleep, anxiety, nervousness, physical pain and sickness and mental anguish.

COUNT THREE RECKLESS AND WANTON TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

- 23. The Plaintiffs adopt the averments and allegations of paragraphs 1 through 21 hereinbefore as if fully set forth herein.
- 24. The Defendant knew or should have known of the conduct set forth herein which was directed at and visited upon the Plaintiff.
- 25. The Defendant knew or should have known that said conduct was improper.
- 26. The Defendant recklessly and wantonly failed to train and supervise collectors in order to prevent said improper conduct.
- 27. The Defendant recklessly and wantonly failed to train and supervise collectors on the FDCPA as it relates to communications with consumers.
- 28. As a result of the Defendant's recklessness and wantonness, the Plaintiff suffered humiliation, loss of sleep, anxiety, nervousness, physical sickness, physical and mental suffering, pain, and anguish.

AMOUNT OF DAMAGES DEMANDED

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff, Daisy Gaskin, demands a judgment against Defendant, Midland Credit Management, for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA;
- B. Actual damages for violations of the FDCPA;
- C. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k;
- D. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k;
- E. Compensatory and punitive damages in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) on Plaintiff's claims for damages due to the Defendant's invasion of privacy and reckless and wanton training and supervision of employees; and;
- F. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted

Penny D. Hays (ASB-6309-A63P)

Attorney for Plaintiff

OF COUNSEL:

ALABAMA INJURY LAWYERS, P.C.

401 Office Park Drive

Birmingham, AL 35223 (205) 870-9848

PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY IN THIS CAUSE.

Attorney for Plaintiff

SERVE DEFENDANT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AT:

Midland Credit Management 5775 Roscoe Court San Diego, California 92913